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DOCKET NO. 2343-104-27

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: RANDAL K. BUDDINGTON, ET AL. ART UNIT: 1615  
SERIAL NO.: 09/671,106 EXAMINER: EVANS, C.  
FILING DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2000  
FOR: INHIBITION OF SYSTEMIC INFECTIONS IN HUMANS AND  
VERTEBRATES BY DIETARY FIBERS

015  
Y03  
4-173

**AMENDMENT**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

This Amendment is submitted in answer to the Office Action dated January 15, 2003, which set a three month period for response. Thus, this Amendment is considered timely filed on or before April 15, 2003.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the following claims:

02 20. (Three Times Amended) A method for the inhibition or treatment of systemic infections in humans or vertebrates comprising administering to humans or vertebrates having a systemic infection caused by pathogenic bacteria a composition comprising an effective amount of a fermentable dietary fiber or a mixture of fermentable dietary fibers, wherein the composition is administered orally or through tube feeding.